

House Resolution No.

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens; and

Whereas, Donald F. Essen is a pillar of his community, broadly described as all of western St. Louis County, where he is respected and admired by all; and

Whereas, Don Essen was the chairman of the Pond Grove Study Commission (1983), which resulted in the incorporation of Wildwood; and

Whereas, Don Essen is the founder and past president of the West County Chamber of Commerce, which was organized in 1955 and incorporated in 1957 and which awarded Mr. Essen with its Fiftieth Year Leadership Award; and

Whereas, Don Essen is a member of the Ballwin Historical Commission, past member of the Ballwin Days Committee, and founder of the Die Ballwin Wanderfreunde Volksmarch Club; and

Whereas, Don Essen was the recipient of the Alumnus Achievement Award in Engineering, in 2001, from the Washington University School of Engineering, from which he graduated in 1943 as a member of the O.D.K. Honor Society; and

Whereas, Don Essen is the past president of the Advisory Council of Concordia Seminary and has been a member since 1968, and Don Essen was the chairman of the St. Louis County Planning Commission from 1987 to 1991; and

Whereas, retiring as a major from the United States Army Reserves in 1961, Don Essen nobly served his country in the Second World War as an intelligence and statistical officer of the Army Brigade, seeing active duty between 1943 and 1946 in the European theater, beginning as a lieutenant and ending as a captain, service for which he was awarded nine commendations and medals, including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation, World War II Victory, European Campaign, American Campaign, Army of Occupation, British Military Cross, Bruxelles Chevalier avec Palm, and the Croix de Guerre avec Palm from Belgium; and

Whereas, in 1949, Don Essen started working at Essen Chevrolet, Inc., as general manager, took over the franchise and incorporated it under Don Essen Chevrolet in 1954, and sold the business in 1985:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to commend the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce for their proclaiming May 23, 2007, Don Essen Day, in recognition of all of the work Mr. Essen has done for his community; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation.

Offered by _____
Representative Dwight Scharnhorst
District No. 93

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted ____, 2007.

Rod Jetton, Speaker